Career Education (CE) Committee
Tuesday, October 6, 2026
Library Conference Room and Zoom
1:00 – 2:15pm

In attendance: Rebecca Agonafir, Ruth Casillas, Victoria Charles, Mario Franco, Jazmin Guzman, Mahtaub Golab, Jo Hao, Laurel Joe, Maria Leon-Vazquez, Lisa Lewenberg, Esmeralda Martinez, Dana Nasser, Debbie Perret, Steven Sedky, Redelia Shaw.

Zoom: Kevin Benitez, Chapter 36 (External), Amanda Garcia, David Hall, Jennifer Hsieh, Laurel Joe, Luke Johnson, Jenny Landa, Leigh Allen, Sharyn Obsatz, Chioma Ojini, Juan Ramos, Howard Stahl, Josh Withers.

Call to Order: 1:03pm

Public Comments and Announcements:
Redelia Shaw mentioned the Kerwin Live at SMC TV Show. Students interested in being interviewed for the show can sign up using the link below: **Student Interview Sign-Up Form**

Approval of Minutes: May 19, 2026 & September 15, 2026
Rebecca Agonafir motioned to approve May 19, 2026 and September 15, 2026 minutes. Redelia Shaw second. All were in favor, and there were no abstentions, and no oppositions.

Reports:
Chair: Debbie Perret
N/A

Vice Chair: Steven Sedky
N/A

Information and Discussion Items:

Update CE Viewbook, Ruth Casillas
The Career Education viewbook will be updated, which was created about 10 years ago, to better promote programs and increase enrollment. Ayanna Williams and a student employee will lead the project and gather input from department chairs and lead faculty. The goal is to finalize the view book by spring for printing and summer outreach. The original concept was for each department to get two pages so that those two pages can be extracted and promoted by individual departments.

Committee members recommended the updated version be organized by Areas of Interest (AOIs), include noncredit programs, and incorporate QR codes for direct access to department webpages.

CE Faculty Resources on Canvas, Laurel Jo, Debbie Perret
A Strong Workforce Regional project developed resources to support new faculty transitioning from industry into teaching. Santa Monica College faculty created a CE specific Canvas shell with onboarding checklists, teaching resources, and seven professional development webinars covering topics such as equity and AI in the classroom.

The committee discussed sharing the Canvas course with department chairs and faculty, including those hired within the past three to five years, and exploring options to promote access through the college website and faculty onboarding process.

Veterans Success Center, Kevin Benitez
Kevin provided an overview of the SMC Veterans Center, which supports approximately 430 students, including veterans and their dependents. He discussed common challenges faced by student veterans, available campus and community resources, GI Bill requirements, and career counseling services. He also highlighted efforts to obtain approval for the VA's VET TEC program to support veterans pursuing certificates in Cloud Computing, Cybersecurity, and related fields.

Careers for Good Conference, Luke Johnson
Luke Johnson (IxD faculty) announced the first annual **Careers for Good Conference**, scheduled for October 23, to connect students with purpose-driven businesses, nonprofits, and sustainability-focused organizations. He encouraged faculty to promote the event, invite potential employers and mentors, and encourage student registration through Eventbrite.

Perkins Share Out. Journalism, Sharyn Obsatz
Sharyn shared how the Journalism Program uses Perkins and Strong Workforce funding to support student competition conference attendance, journalism equipment, social media engagement, staff stipends, professional memberships, and collaboration with the Media Production program. She highlighted challenges with software subscription renewals due to fiscal year performance periods, grant funding deadlines and encouraged others to share how they use funding to support their programs.

Discussion Items
What topics would you like us to cover in future meetings?
The committee continues to share effective practices for workplace learning and preparing students for employment. Members were invited to provide input on topics they would like to

cover in future meetings through an interactive QR code activity. Some recommended topics included increasing enrollments, work-based learning activities, funding, grants, and student perspectives.

What barriers make it difficult to offer career-focused opportunities for your students, for example: guest speakers, work-based learning, or employer engagement?
Committee members emphasized the importance of collaboration across departments to create more student engagement and work-based learning opportunities.

Adjournment 2:16pm

Next scheduled meeting: October 20, 2026, 1:00 - 2:15pm. Library Conference Room #275 and Zoom. www.smc.edu/senate